

November 10, 1976

MARAT/SADE COMES TO CONCORDIA STAGE NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1-5

Concordia's new director of performing arts Joe Cazalet plunges ambitiously into his first Montreal directing role with Marat/Sade, by Peter Weiss. The playwright's work has been called "one of the most impressive exemplifications of Artaud's Theatre of Cruelty".

The play is being staged at the D.B. Clarke Theatre of the Hall Building, de Maisonneuve at Bishop. All performances are at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$2 for the general public, \$1 for students (with ID cards please). The box office opens Tuesday, November 23 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Telephone 879-4341. Tickets go on sale beginning Tuesday, November 30, from 12 noon to 9:30 p.m.

The production centres on one of the more popular horror stories of the French revolution and concerns, as its full title suggests, "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade".

In current parlance, Jean-Paul Marat would be a "Hawk", albeit of the left which doesn't seem to have hawks these days. He was Swiss-born (in the 1740's) and trained in medicine, which he quit at the start of the Revolution to become a journalist-pamphleteer. He suggested that if a sufficient number of royalist heads were chopped off, the revolution would have brought liberty to the working and peasant classes: "Rise and let the blood of traitors flow again," he is said to have exhorted his readers. Throughout the revolutionary period Marat led an erratic life hiding when he was being pursued and resurfacing when he had sufficiently regrouped his Jacobin supporters to begin another offensive against the more moderate Girondins.

He was assassinated in his bathtub in 1793.

The play deals exclusively with his captivity at Charenton.

Participants in this performing arts presentation, besides director Joe Cazalet and an all-student cast, are Bill Reznicek who handles scenic design, Pat Abrams who heads costume design and Dan Hoffman who is handling lighting.

For more information, contact Norma Springford in performing arts at 879-5855 or 482-0320.

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Joel McCormick
Information Officer